

04-28-03

Attorney Docket No. 29195-8117US
Semitool Ref No. P00-0020

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: THOMAS L. RITZDORF *ET AL.*

APPLICATION No.: 09/612,176

FILED: JULY 8, 2000

FOR: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
PROCESSING A MICROELECTRONIC
WORKPIECE USING METROLOGY**

EXAMINER: ZANDRA V. SMITH

ART UNIT: 1741

CONF. No: 7779

GROUP 1700
APR 30 2003
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**Information Disclosure Statement After First Office Action but
Before Final Action or Notice of Allowance - 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

1. Timing of Submission

The information transmitted herewith is being filed *after* three months of the filing date of this application or after the mailing date of the first Office action on the merits, whichever occurred last, but *before* the mailing date of either a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, whichever occurs first. The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) may be material to the examination of this application; the Examiner is requested to make them of record in the application.

2. Cited Information

☒ Copies of the following references are enclosed:

- ☒ All cited references
- ☐ References marked by asterisks
- ☐ The following:

☐ Copies of the following references can be found in parent U.S. Application No. :

- ☐ All cited references
- ☐ References marked by asterisks
- ☐ The following:

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04/29/2003 MR00CH01 000000001 09612176

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- ☐ The following references are not in English. For each such reference, the undersigned has enclosed: (i) a translation of the reference; (ii) a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office or International Searching Authority citing the reference; (iii) a copy of a reference which appears to be an English-language counterpart; or (iv) an English-language abstract for the reference prepared by a third party. Applicant has not verified that the translation, English-language counterpart or third-party abstract is an accurate representation of the teachings of the non-English reference, though, and reserves the right to demonstrate otherwise.

- ☐ All cited references
☐ References marked by ampersands
☐ The following:

3. Effect of Information Disclosure Statement (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h))

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the cited information is, or is considered to be, material to patentability. In addition, applicant does not admit that any enclosed item of information constitutes prior art to the subject invention and specifically reserves the right to demonstrate that any such reference is not prior art.

4. Fee Payment (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)) or Certification (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e))

- ☒ Applicant elects to pay the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) \$180.00.
- ☒ Check enclosed for \$180.00.
☐ Please charge the above fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-0665 this paper is provided in triplicate.
- ☐ Applicant submits that no fee is due in light of the following certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one):
- ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned hereby states that each item of information submitted herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to this filing of this statement; or
- ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2), the undersigned hereby states that no item of information submitted herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any

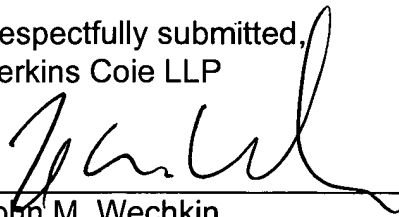
individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

- ☒ Please charge any underpayment for timely filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0665.

5. Patent Term Adjustment (37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d))

- ☐ The undersigned states that each item of information submitted herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d).

Respectfully submitted,
Perkins Coie LLP

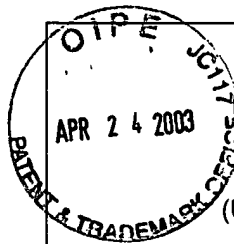


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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**Form PTO-1449 (Modified)
(Use several sheets if necessary)**COMPLETE IF KNOWN**

Application Number	09/612,176
Confirmation Number	7779
Filing Date	July 8, 2000
First Named Inventor	Thomas L. Ritzdorf
Group Art Unit	1741
Examiner Name	Zandra V. Smith
Attorney Docket No.	29195-8117US

Sheet 1 of 2

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APR 24 2003**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

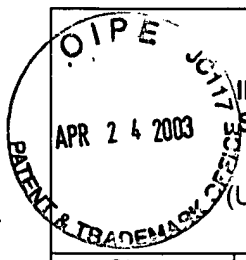
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	U.S. Patent or Application		Name of Patentee or Inventor of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)			
		10/213,399		Ritzdorf et al.	08/06/02	
		5,924,058		Waldhauer et al.	07/13/99	
		5,964,643		Birang et al.	10/12/99	
		6,017,437		Ting et al.	01/25/00	
		6,025,600		Archie et al.	02/15/00	
		6,045,618		Raoux et al.	04/04/00	
		6,051,284		Byrne et al.	04/18/00	
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		6,283,692		Perlov et al.	09/04/01	
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		6,303,395		Nulman	10/16/01	

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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	U.S. Patent or Application		Name of Patentee or Inventor of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)			
		6,303,931		Menaker et al.	10/16/01	
		6,309,276		Tsai et al.	10/30/01	
		6,318,384		Khan et al.	11/20/01	
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		6,454,899		Campbell et al.	09/24/02	
		6,534,328		Hewett et al.	03/18/03	
		6,511,898		Sonderman et al.	01/28/03	

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent or Application			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Office	NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)				
		EP	1058172		Applied Materials	12/06/00		
		EP	1058173		Applied Materials	12/06/00		
		EP	1058175		Applied Materials	12/06/00		
		WO	83/03636		Baardson et al.	10/27/83		
		WO	99/25004		Applied Materials	08/29/00		
		WO	00/70495		Applied Materials	11/23/00		

OTHER PRIOR ART-NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T

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